

KIM JONG UN

**ON USHERING IN
A GREAT GOLDEN AGE
OF CONSTRUCTION**

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
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2024**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Let Us Usher in a Great Golden Age of Construction by Thoroughly Applying the Party's Juche-oriented Idea on Architecture

Letter to Those Attending the Grand Short Course
of Officials in the Construction Sector

December 8, 2013

It is of great significance that a grand short course of officials in the construction sector is being held for the first time in the construction history of our country when a heyday is being unfolded in construction and a general campaign is being waged for victory this year under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This short course, held under the theme *Yesterday and Today of Juche-Oriented Architecture and Its Today and Tomorrow*, has been convened according to our Party's plan and on its initiative to review the successes and experiences in the work of the construction sector and usher in a great golden age in this sector in line with the demands of the developing revolution and times.

Today, when our Party and revolution have come to a new, historic turning point under the great banner of Songun, they are faced with the important task of scaling at an early date the high peak of building a thriving country,

leaping from one decade to the next.

In the opening of a decade of the fresh leap forward by Songun Korea, our Party is attaching great importance to the work of the construction sector.

Construction is a patriotic cause of lasting significance for building a thriving socialist country, a people's paradise, and important work for increasing the economic might of the country and raising the level of its civilization.

When we build many monumental structures by bringing about innovations in construction, the firm foundations of a thriving country will be laid and a sound basis built for the people's happiness. Seeing the daily-changing appearance of their prosperous and civilized country, our people will feel a sense of great dignity and revolutionary self-respect and cherish warmer affection for their country. The new construction speeds and the spirit of the times created at the grand construction sites inspire all the people and service personnel to wage a heroic struggle and perform feats in building a thriving country.

It is our Party's steadfast determination to usher in a new age of national prosperity by developing the current heyday in construction into a great golden age of construction in Songun Korea and by making the torchlight of innovation in this sector flare up as the flames of a great leap forward on all the other fronts of socialist construction.

Bearing in mind our Party's purpose in organizing this grand short course, all those attending should gain through

it a clear understanding of the blueprint of our Party's plan for building a socialist economic giant, a civilized country, and the ways to implement the plan; thus they should make the short course an epochal occasion in bringing about another great leap forward in the construction sector.

The history of construction in our country is a proud history of achieving miracles and changes by racing against time at the pace of Chollima, spurred on by the speed campaign, guided by the outstanding ideas on architecture of the great Generalissimos and under their wise leadership.

The brilliant leadership exploits of Generalissimo Kim Il Sung, who created a new history of Juche-oriented and people-oriented architecture after the liberation of the country and built on the war debris a powerful country with a self-supporting economy, a people's paradise, and of Generalissimo Kim Jong Il, who put forward a comprehensive Juche-oriented theory on architecture and ushered in a heyday of grand socialist construction, will shine for ever as eternal assets in building a prosperous country.

Today, a heyday of construction has been unfolded in our country under the leadership of the Party, with the result that the great Generalissimos' plan of building a thriving country is being translated into reality.

Thanks to the loyalty and heroic struggle of the service personnel of the Korean People's Army and the construction workers, the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme sanctuary of Juche, has been laid out in a more

solemn way as a grand monument to the immortality of the leaders, and proud structures of the age of the WPK, such as the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Unha Scientists Street, Munsu Water Park and Masikryong Ski Resort, which will go well with the appearance of a civilized socialist country in their characters, contents and architectural styles, have been built in the short period of less than one year, instilling in our people a sense of great national dignity and pleasure.

The service personnel of the KPA and the construction workers have devoted their sweat and blood unstintingly in carrying out the Party's construction plan, thus proving in practice that Korea never fails to do what it is determined to do, and demonstrating to the whole world the wisdom and spirit of our people who are charging ahead at full speed; they are indeed heroes of the Songun era and treasures of our Party.

I extend warm thanks to those attending the grand short course of officials in the construction sector, the soldier-builders and the construction workers across the country who have displayed burning patriotic enthusiasm and unswerving devotion to usher in a heyday of construction in hearty response to the Party's long-term construction plan.

Today the officials and working people in the construction sector are faced with the heavy yet honourable task of laying the solid foundations of a socialist economic giant in the near future and taking the lead in opening up a

new era of cultural attainment in the 21st century by carrying forward and developing the great Generalissimos' leadership exploits associated with their sector.

We should speed up production-related construction on all fronts of the socialist economy, including its vanguard sectors, basic industries, and light industry and agriculture so as to revitalize the national economy as quickly as possible and provide a reliable springboard for the building of an economic giant.

We should lay out the capital city of Pyongyang, the heart of Juche Korea and the hub of Songun-based culture, as a city of global standards in all aspects and raise a hot wind of construction across the provinces, cities and counties to remodel them in a beautiful fashion as suited to their characteristic features. By so doing, we can turn the country into a socialist paradise.

We should attain a new, higher phase in building a civilized socialist nation by pushing forward the projects for updating the conditions and environment for learning at educational institutions and ensuring the highest quality in setting up healthcare, sports and cultural facilities, as demanded by the times.

The goals for the construction sector are gigantic and ambitious. However, because we have the wise leadership of the Party and construction officials and workers who are boundlessly loyal to it, the ideals and dream of our Party and people to build a socialist paradise that is powerful and civilized at the earliest date possible are sure to be realized.

The officials and working people in the construction sector should not rest on their laurels but redouble their efforts, occupying the vanguard of the grand campaign for building a thriving country to lead today's success to a more brilliant victory tomorrow.

The guidelines to be followed in carrying out our ambitious construction plan and reaching our goals are the Party's Juche-oriented idea and theory on architecture and its construction policy.

Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, who are responsible for the country's architecture. It is the people themselves who create it and benefit from it. So it is a natural requirement in construction to give top priority to the aspirations and demands of the people and their convenience and to ensure its perfect ideological and artistic value and usability in conformity with their emotions and aesthetic sense. In construction we should preserve the Juche character by applying the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, combine national identity properly with modernity, and build at an extraordinary speed monumental structures that will surpass global standards and remain immaculate even in the distant future. This is the basic principle which we must abide by in construction and the core of the Juche-oriented idea on architecture.

“Let us usher in a great golden age of construction by

thoroughly applying the Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture!"—this is the militant slogan the officials and working people in the construction sector should hold up at present.

They should bring about a revolutionary change in the design, building work and the production of building materials so as to ensure that the country's construction sector reaches the global standards.

Design, building work and building materials are three elements of construction. The key to building excellent structures is the proper combination of these elements.

The main requirements of our Party's policy on developing design, building work and the production of building materials are to abide by the principle of prioritizing convenience over aesthetic beauty, and the construction of infrastructure over that of superstructure, to make construction specialized, industrialized and modern at a high level and to complete projects at one go by adopting finish-one-at-a-time tactics and pressing ahead with them in a three-dimensional way.

First of all, we need to develop the architectural design sector rapidly.

Architectural design is the initial process in construction and creates an operational map for it. Keeping in mind that the future of a civilized country is visualized first on their drawing boards, architects should guarantee the highest level of excellence in their work, as intended by the Party and desired by the people.

They should fully embody the requirements of our Party's Juche-oriented theory on architecture and its construction policy in their architectural designs.

In drawing the designs for a structure, primary attention should be paid to providing the people, its users, with convenience for their comfort and then to creating an environment and conditions with the highest levels of safety, hygiene, sanitation, culture and aesthetics. It is also important to constantly update the formative and artistic features of architecture. It should be regarded as an iron rule in architectural design to give precedence to the designs of infrastructure, with due concern paid to modernizing the infrastructure network in keeping with the world trend.

It is important in architectural design to sustain the utility and characteristics of structures. General Kim Jong Il taught us that architecture is a composite art, so similarity and repetition are a taboo in architectural design.

Architects should always rack their brains for distinctive designs for structures of various forms that conform with their characteristic features, utility and capacities. As the characteristics and utility of structures are manifested in the formation of the exterior and the interior space, their exterior should be configured and their interior plane arrangement designed so as to conform with their missions and functions. In architectural designs for local areas it is important to avoid the tendency of blindly copying the models in Pyongyang or of drawing them only for style's

sake; they should assume varied and unique forms to bring out the character of each locality. In keeping with the world trend towards green architecture structures to be built should be designed on the principle of promoting the ecological environment and making them friendly to their surroundings. On the other hand, precautions should be taken against adopting architectural forms and trends that are incongruous with the Korean style on the pretext of creating distinctive designs.

The level of scientification in architectural design should be raised radically, in line with the demands of the new century.

Scientific methods should be introduced into design and its means modernized. Architects cannot present satisfactory designs for world-class structures based solely on their sense of responsibility and duty. The days are gone when designs were drawn on paper. The most pressing issue in putting methods of architectural design on a scientific basis is to develop and use the advanced CAD applications and system of a Korean style. National institutions for architectural design and similar units in the provinces should equip themselves fully with modern devices such as the latest computers and multidimensional design programs so as to ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in their work.

Special attention should be paid to ensuring the scientific accuracy of calculation of cost-effectiveness in design. A misplaced dot or line on a design can result in the

country's materials, funds and manpower being wasted in large amounts. From the standpoint that they are answerable to the country and people for the structures they design, architects should map out plans for them carefully in the light of economic profitability and draw designs of each structure only after repeated deliberation.

The architectural design sector should develop all its branches rapidly with the great ambition of beating the world. In recent years many monumental structures have been built, and in the course of this our architects have widened their horizons and improved the level of their skills; however, they still lag behind in many aspects in view of the requirements of the Party and people and the world trend of architectural development. For the present, it is important to develop designs for interior decoration, furniture and landscape gardening. Proactive efforts should be made to create green and intelligent architecture in conformity with the aspirations of mankind by adopting the latest world trends and excellent styles of other countries in architectural design.

Fresh innovations should be brought about in building work.

The process of building work is the major process in construction. However excellent a design may be, if the building work is not done properly, a structure will not meet the requirements of the Party and people.

Building work should be put on a specialized basis.

Making building work specialized is an important

guarantee for higher speed and quality.

Radical steps should be taken to consolidate the material and technical foundations of central construction enterprises, improve their employees' level of technical knowledge and skill, and make up for the shortage of manpower. Provinces, too, should build up their own construction forces. Specialized construction enterprises should work effectively to reinforce their technical personnel and train skilled construction workers. Given the experience in construction this year, it is advisable to second construction forces in the provinces for major projects in Pyongyang so that they can learn advanced construction methods and gain experience.

It is important to raise the level of industrialization and modernization decisively in building work.

Only then will it be possible to make work easier in the construction sector and carry out construction projects more quickly and better with less expenditure of manpower and materials.

Fundamental to putting building work on an industrialized and modern footing is upgrading the equipment, machinery and tools. Since we are to undertake many projects in the coming years in answer to the Party's call for a construction campaign, we should replace old building equipment, machinery and tools with modern ones. As we have the experience of manufacturing various types of building equipment and as we are supported by firm industrial foundations, we are surely capable of

producing and supplying modern building equipment, machinery and tools if we buckle down to it. Factories and enterprises in the machine-building industry and construction units should make positive efforts to produce building equipment, machinery and tools. It is also important to make scrupulous arrangements for importing complete sets of up-to-date building equipment, machinery and tools.

Advanced building methods should be introduced proactively. People's aesthetic standards rise and building methods develop in step with the times. A struggle should be waged to invent and apply various building methods suited to the requirements of the times and the characteristics of the construction projects, and positive efforts be made to adopt the most up-to-date building methods. In order to raise construction to a higher level, we should switch from wet to dry process.

The technical regulations and requirements in construction should be strictly observed. The slogan "Let us take responsibility for the safety of the project and guarantee its quality for all eternity" is located at every construction site; this slogan should not be regarded as being simply for the sake of publicity. We should make it a slogan of loyalty and patriotism under which the officials and working people in the construction sector support their Party and love their country, a slogan of clear conscience and practice under which they devote themselves to the well-being of the people and of the rising generations.

We should create an example in building work and generalize it. It is our Party's traditional method of work to create a model in a unit and generalize it across other units. We should raise the overall level of building work by setting up exemplary, model units in the capital and provinces and making all other construction units follow suit.

When carrying out a construction project, close attention should be paid to laying out the area surrounding the site. A structure should be completed in parallel with cleaning up the surrounding area and landscaping it with trees and lawns so that the traces of construction are removed entirely, along with the completion of the project.

An epochal turn should be made in the production of building materials.

Building materials production is decisive to the success or failure of construction. Building materials are to construction what shells and bullets are to the army.

Building-materials factories should normalize their production so that they can supply materials for construction in sufficient quantities. Cement factories and the units producing steel for construction should upgrade and perfect their existing production lines and operate their equipment at full capacity, and thus produce and supply quality cement and steel according to the specifications. The production of standard aggregate and prefabs should be industrialized so as to boost their output rapidly. Modern bases for producing building materials should be set up in

larger numbers to meet the growing demand for them in the construction sector.

The proportion of domestically-produced finishing materials should be raised. To produce building materials by relying on domestic resources is a requisite for the development of construction and, at the same time, it is an important aspect of political work to inspire the people with trust and pride in their own things and enhance their confidence. We should speed up the work of putting production lines on a modern and scientific basis at building-materials factories, including the Taedonggang Tile Factory and the Pyongyang Building-Materials Factory which were built with so much effort under the care of Generalissimo Kim Jong Il, and each factory should specialize in the production of a certain range and high standard of building materials and make it its tradition. Finishing-materials factories should strive for higher quality and make their product range varied. In future, our country should produce all the various kinds of finishing materials we need in construction.

We should channel strenuous efforts into developing materials for fittings and furniture so that large quantities of light, durable, convenient and attractive materials are produced. Positive measures should be taken to turn out varieties of quality coating materials by relying on locally-available raw materials.

The responsibility and role of the officials and working people in the construction sector should be enhanced so as

to usher in a great golden age of construction.

They are point men and pioneers who perform the honourable duty of taking the lead in paving the way for the prosperity of Songun Korea and the people's happy tomorrow. By relying on their ardent loyalty and patriotic zeal, our Party intends to open up a great golden age of construction with a view to translating the people's ideals and dreams into reality.

The officials in the construction sector should work to the best of their abilities and make persevering efforts to carry out the construction plan of the Party, and its intentions.

They should set a reasonable order of priority for construction that is in keeping with the requirements for building a thriving nation and the actual conditions in the country, and carry out the tasks assigned to their units by projects and stages in a sweeping manner by displaying their organizational abilities to the full and through bold, daring operations. They should lend an attentive ear to the creative suggestions of the masses and hold serious on-site discussions concerning the problems arising in construction, from the design and building work to the preparations for operating the buildings, so that they can take appropriate measures in time. They should all become locomotives that arouse and lead the masses in the grand construction campaign through personal examples by overcoming difficulties and hardships in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and with indefatigable courage.

They should make exacting demands in construction. In construction the criteria are that which is required by the Party and the people. In carrying on any project, officials should not feel satisfied with what they have done, but make greater demands so as to construct all structures as monumental creations which reach the standards required by the Party and the people and are of the highest international standards.

They should show special concern for the safety of workers and take scrupulous measures to this end to prevent even the slightest labour accident.

They should endeavour to raise the level of their own political and practical qualifications. To them, it is not merely a matter of qualification; it is a matter of eligibility, in other words, whether or not they can keep pace with the Party in the struggle to create a new history of construction for Songun Korea. They should arm themselves fully with our Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy and become able, talented personnel who are well versed in their field and the work of their units, as well as in the world trend of architectural development.

Construction projects should be carried out on the strength of army-people joint operations. As they have brought about sea changes in all parts of the country by displaying the spirit of moving mountains and filling up seas at the risk of their lives if it is the Supreme Commander's order, the soldier-builders should continue to

perform heroic feats in the vanguard of the sacred struggle to open up a great golden age of construction, and thus demonstrate to the full the proud features of the Party's army and its might as the architect of people's happiness. By learning from the fighting spirit of the soldier-builders, the working people in the construction sector should ensure the highest speed and quality in carrying out construction projects, thus leaving an outstanding trace in the ongoing vigorous construction campaign with an ardent, patriotic view of life.

Construction science and technology should be developed onto a higher stage.

Science and technology are an engine which drives constant advances in construction, and the shortcut to the great golden age of construction is to rapidly develop science and technology in this sector.

The scientists and technicians in the construction sector should have the national pride and scientific faith that they will beat the world and should make the best use of the knowledge and talents they have acquired under the care of the Party, so as to provide a scientific and technological guarantee for and push ahead with the grand construction campaign for the country's prosperity and the people's well-being. They should further develop architectural design and building work on the basis of intensive research into structural diagrams, scientific methods of calculation and advanced methods of building work which are appropriate to the actual conditions of our country and may

lead the world. They should strive to ensure the domestic production of building materials, and increase their variety and improve their quality so that they can compete with world-class ones. They should also make proactive efforts to develop and introduce modern and more efficient equipment, machinery and tools.

Emphasis should be put on training scientific and technical personnel in the construction sector. Today, when the heyday of construction is being led into a great golden age for the new century of the Juche era, talented designers and architects are in growing demand. Pyongyang University of Architecture is the base for training talented personnel in Juche-oriented architecture and an outpost in building a civilized socialist country. The university and other educational institutions in the construction sector should put education on an informatized, modern and advanced basis as demanded by the era of the knowledge economy, combine theory with practice, and teaching with productive labour, and guarantee the best conditions and environment for teaching so as to increase the number of able designers and architects who are fully equipped with the Juche-oriented idea on architecture. In order to produce able personnel who are talented in construction science and technology and can render a contribution to building a thriving nation, it is important to select promising people and send them abroad to study and for internships and effectively organize refresher courses for in-service officials.

A dissemination centre for construction science and technology should be built and widely used. A wide range of worldwide architectural data should be entered into the central database to enable the relevant organs to gain access to them through a computer network.

Supervision and control over construction should be improved and strengthened.

Supervision and control should be conducted in a responsible manner in the interests of the Party and the state. With a high sense of being supervisors defending the demands and interests of the Party, the country and the people, officials in this sector should exercise strict control over construction and make increasing demands on design and building work.

We should establish a nationwide, unified system of supervision and control over construction. Only then will it be possible to conduct the overall construction of the country in line with the Party's construction policy, the development orientation for construction set by the state, and the laws and regulations on construction. A proper unified control system by the state has not yet been established in the construction sector. The construction control sector should establish a routine whereby its officials deliberate the designs of structures on site and inspect them upon their completion and exercise control so as to prevent deviations in construction. Construction control organs should establish a system of examining even the preparations for the operation of structures when

inspecting them upon their completion.

Party guidance to the construction sector should be strengthened.

Party organizations should make it a major line to establish a comprehensive system of Party leadership in the construction sector and concentrate all types of Party work on this work. Without establishing the system of Party leadership, it is impossible properly to apply the Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy and usher in a great golden age of construction in line with the Party's intention.

All units in the construction sector should establish the strict discipline of accepting the Party's policy and instructions on construction as absolute and resolving the problems arising in construction according to the Party's decisions, and carry out self-sacrificingly and unconditionally the tasks the Party has assigned to them.

Party organizations should conduct political work in a proactive way so as to give full rein to the mental strength of the officials and working people in the construction sector. The driving force of the construction campaign is the mental strength of the masses of the people. Party organizations should positively encourage and lead the officials and working people in the construction sector so that they cherish Kim Jong Il's patriotism and devote their patriotic zeal and sincerity to fulfilling on time the tasks assigned to them. They should encourage them all to become performers of feats in the ongoing grand construction campaign by

learning from the heroic fighting spirit and revolutionary traits possessed by the elder generations who brought about great innovations and changes by dint of the Chollima spirit and high-speed work in every decade of our revolution. By enlisting every means of information and motivational work, Party organizations should actively motivate them ideologically and widely organize socialist emulation drives; in this way, they can ensure that every construction site is brimming with the spirit of making a leap forward and carrying out tasks self-sacrificingly, militant mettle and revolutionary optimism.

Party organizations should intensify education among officials so as to encourage them to strive to develop our own things with a high sense of national self-respect and be proactive in the work of rooting out from among them the tendency of depending on other countries.

Since builders are engaged in challenging and labour-consuming work away from home for a long time, Party organizations should regard them as their revolutionary comrades-in-arms and take warm care of them with maternal affection, to ensure that they devote their creative wisdom and zeal at construction sites out of genuine attachment to their job.

Great are the Party's trust in and expectations of the officials and working people in the construction sector in the gigantic struggle to usher in a great golden age of construction by thoroughly applying the Juche-oriented idea on architecture.

With a firm determination to translate the Party's far-reaching construction plan into brilliant reality, they should demonstrate to the whole world the dignity of the powerful Paektusan nation and the spirit of Songun Korea by bringing about a great advance and innovations at construction sites.

Let Us Make Our Capital City Even More Splendid by Building 50 000 Flats

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony
for a Project to Build 10 000 Flats in Pyongyang

March 23, 2021

All the builders and service personnel who have turned out in this worthy project for improving our capital city,

Today we have the honour to be creating another significant landmark in the history of Pyongyang's development.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Party's Eighth Central Committee held earlier this year took the decision to construct 50 000 flats in our capital city during the five-year plan period by building 10 000 every year, while pushing ahead with housing development across the country.

The most worthwhile and glorious revolutionary undertaking of all the momentous and gigantic fighting tasks decided by the Party Congress is being fully launched today.

Building 50 000 modern flats in Pyongyang, the capital of our great country, is something our Party has long intended, prepared for and aspired to, in order to provide its

citizens with more cultured and stable living conditions.

The Party and the government, having made themselves aware of the number of families that were in need of new houses, conducted in-depth research to determine the measures for solving the problem. They regarded this project as their most important task.

Having willingly acknowledged that this colossal project would be an honourable revolutionary task that it must implement without fail, however challenging the conditions and environment, the Party Central Committee reaffirmed that its architectural development plan and construction policy would be based on the principle of applying the people-first principle more thoroughly.

It redefined the orientation and priority of the work, ensuring that a significant part of the state construction budget was allocated for building houses. Then, with the plans and preparations already made, it introduced the policy of building 50 000 flats at its Eighth Congress.

This large-scale house-building programme introduced by our Party and state is not designed for the pursuit of financial profit; it is an ennobling undertaking to turn the state's assets and the fruits of their creative labour into benefits for the working masses.

If, starting today, we build 50 000 flats by 2025 when we will mark the 80th founding anniversary of the Party—10 000 flats every year—we will have built almost 70 000 flats, including the more than 16 000 that are currently under construction. Thus we will have solved, once and for

all, the problem of housing for the citizens of the capital.

Carrying out such an audacious and expansive house-building programme in the capital is very important also in demonstrating the unquenchable fighting spirit of our state and people as they continue their bold advance in the face of manifold difficulties.

As you must all be aware, a great deal of thought went into deciding on this project.

To be honest, that a project on such a massive scale could be launched in today's circumstances, when the challenges and difficulties are harsher than ever before, is almost unimaginable.

The construction of 10 000 flats this year will be carried out in circumstances that are entirely different from when we started building Ryomyong Street five years ago; moreover, the amount of work we must complete in a limited time is many times greater than it was back then.

Yet our Party decided that the project must go ahead unconditionally, since it will have a direct impact on the life of the citizens of the capital, and since it is an important political undertaking in the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress.

We have the proud dignity and courage that we are undertaking such a gigantic and magnificent project in the most trying times; we also have the self-confidence, experience and assets for completing it without fail.

By completing the iconic multi-storey, high-rise apartment buildings in the Songsin and Songhwa area, as

depicted in the artist's impression, by the end of this year, we will, once again, display to the full the power of our state and the creative strength of our people.

In the course of this, a further major advance will be achieved by our Juche-oriented architecture, and greater momentum will be gained in ensuring that construction serves the aim of creating a new life of our own style by our own efforts and with our own hands.

We will introduce the latest architectural techniques and construction methods, such as green architecture and dry-building, in an aggressive and innovative manner. We will also further expand and strengthen the foundations of the industrial bases producing building equipment and materials, and will work to make our construction units and builders stronger and more highly-skilled.

This grand construction project will be of monumental significance in the history of the capital's development.

The project of building 50 000 flats, which we are launching today, is a historic undertaking for creating modern, large-scale residential streets and expanding the urban areas of Pyongyang, the capital city, to the east, west and north.

Building 10 000 flats and distinctive public buildings every year in the Songsin, Songhwa, Sopho, Kumchon and September 9 Street areas will transform our national capital in a more magnificent fashion, and make these streets monuments to the most arduous yet glorious third decade of the 21st century.

The citizens and their offspring who will live in the new streets we are building will, for many generations to come, remember as heroes the builders of our era who overcame such terrible trials to build these huge, world-class architectural groups.

The large-scale construction project we are launching today is a truly great undertaking for writing a glorious chapter in our history.

Comrades,

Construction combines the intelligence of an era with the strength of the nation concerned, and represents a major stride towards a civilized lifestyle and development.

Today, as we advance to achieve development and prosperity, upholding the principle of our-state-first, this project will constitute a major area of thrust, symbolic of the era in which a fresh upsurge and transformation are being recorded in socialist construction.

Through this project we will make a further improvement to the appearance of our capital city and usher in an era of a fresh dynamic advance, in the course of which socialist construction will be confidently developed, step by step.

In the planning of this massive project, the Party Central Committee paid primary attention to forming the major forces that would play the main, most powerful role.

First and foremost, in the decision-making process, it put its trust in our revolutionary armed forces, which are boundlessly faithful to the Party and the people.

The People's Army, while performing its mission and responsibility of staunchly defending the country and people, has always played a major role in making life better for the people.

It has performed heroic feats in numerous grand construction projects and in the rehabilitation of areas ravaged by natural disasters. Only when it undertakes major projects can victory be guaranteed in our overall construction work.

No one knows our People's Army as well as I do.

I am convinced that the officers and men of the People's Army will, by giving full play to their militant traits in the creative struggle for carrying out the construction work, prove themselves fully worthy of the expectations of the Party and the people.

This grand construction project also involves several major civilian construction units. These include the Capital City Construction Commission, High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, Revolutionary Site Construction Bureau and External Construction Bureau. They have all performed outstanding exploits in other major construction projects, including that of Ryomyong Street.

Success or failure in this grand construction project is dependent on the leading officials, service personnel and civilian builders who are directly responsible for it.

The policy on construction of our Party and state, and the guidance they give to it, are ultimately translated into reality by the leading officials with their creative

enthusiasm and endeavours, and by our builders, in whose ardent patriotic spirit and skill our Party believes, above all else.

The task facing the design sector is paramount.

Construction is a highly creative undertaking, and buildings are becoming aesthetically appealing, artistic, multi-functional and intelligent. This adds to the importance of the design.

What our Party asks of the design sector is that every single dot and line placed on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of our times and embody the noble ideals and standards of a civilization that can proudly take the global lead.

Based on the street formation and design plans that have already been decided and issued, the designers should ensure that all the designs for the buildings are perfected so that they fully embody the Party's concept of architectural aesthetics, and should submit them to the construction sector as soon as possible.

All the construction units responsible for building operations should start work immediately and execute their daily, weekly and monthly plans without fail, in accordance with the schedule of completing the buildings' frameworks within the first half of this year.

Every construction detachment and unit should focus its main energies on improving the quality of construction, and consistently hold fast to the principle of ensuring quality throughout the construction process.

If every official and builder maintains at all times the stance and attitude that their loyalty, patriotism and conscience will be proved by the Party, the state, the people, posterity and history, all the structures will become outstanding creations of our times both in name and in reality.

The construction supervision sector should, by enhancing its role, ensure that the construction policy of the Party and state is executed, the people's demands and interests are met in full, and the safety of what they build is guaranteed.

The materials and equipment needed for the construction of 10 000 flats must be supplied on a priority and timely basis.

The factories and enterprises that have been assigned to the production of cement, steel and various other building materials and equipment should fulfil their production quotas properly and on time by giving full play to the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the working class. By doing so, they can ensure the success of the housing construction in the capital.

The railway and other transport sectors should launch a vigorous campaign for stepping up transport to ensure the prompt delivery of the materials needed at the construction sites in the capital and at the bases where the steel and other building materials are being produced.

We should give precedence to political work and the ideological offensive in all our undertakings. Doing so will

encourage the soldiers of the People's Army and the other builders to give full play to their loyalty, patriotism and creative wisdom. It will also ensure that all the construction sites are seething with high spirits, from a project's beginning to its end.

Ultimately, it will ensure that we not only enlist the masses in the worthwhile construction struggle, but also turn the capital city's massive construction sites into fierce revolutionary battlefields and excellent schools where a new spirit of the times is generated and courageous activists and stalwart socialist working people are trained.

Taking good care of the health and living conditions of the soldiers and other builders engaged in the construction should also be treated as a matter of utmost importance.

In keeping with the requirements of the national emergency epidemic prevention system, throughout the construction sites epidemic prevention stations and facilities should be built and a climate of observing the epidemic prevention regulations voluntarily and thoroughly should be established. Preventing accidents and disasters and ensuring that the builders engage in their work without inconvenience should be the focus of our utmost concern.

Supply services for the soldiers and other builders should not be left solely to the units concerned. Rather, the state supply system should be scrupulously observed to ensure that each builder is given his exact entitlement.

Comrades,

Today we are breaking the ground for this project, and

in several months' time a brand-new street for the people, a splendid architectural group we can all be proud of, will be built here.

Nothing is more worthwhile, honourable, or happier, for us than to dedicate our sweat and passion, without hesitation, to building an ideal street that will be a warm cradle for our people, who are the best and greatest in the world.

For the future of our more beautiful and magnificent capital,

For our parents, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who will create and enjoy here a new, more cultured life to their heart's content, and

For the brilliant implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress,

Let us all fight with vigour!

Let Us Launch a New Revolution in Construction to Lead the Way in the Development of Our Own Style of Socialist Civilization

Letter to Those Attending the Second Grand Short
Course of Officials in the Construction Sector

February 8, 2022

At a time when, in this significant year, every sector of socialist construction is seething with revolutionary enthusiasm for writing another glorious page in the history of the country by carrying out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Second Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector has convened.

Currently, in line with the Party's far-reaching plan, we are ushering in a new era of grand construction aimed at once again transforming the whole country beyond recognition. Officials in the construction sector are active on a major front of creation and transformation, and on this occasion they have gathered to review and analyze the successes achieved, the experiences gained, the mistakes made and the lessons learned in the construction sector in recent years and to rearm themselves with our Party's idea on architecture and its policy on construction. This is

quite opportune and meaningful.

I warmly congratulate the officials in the construction sector who are participating in this short course. They have a soaring will to demonstrate the level of development and dignity of our Juche-oriented architecture, which has reached a higher stage in the struggle for opening up an era of a fresh upsurge, an era of comprehensive development, in socialist construction.

I also extend warm and militant greetings to all the other builders and soldiers who are creating legends of construction in the era of the Workers' Party by giving full play to the strength and mettle of our state at the grand construction sites where a civilized and prosperous powerful country is being built, true to the call of the Party.

At the current stage of the struggle for achieving a fresh victory in socialist construction, when we must show the greatest determination in the worst-ever conditions, the position and role of the construction sector are vital. When this sector is advancing dynamically in the vanguard, developing our contemporary civilization ahead of all other sectors, the revolutionary mettle of the people and their zeal for struggle can be steadily heightened, our style of socialism can make vigorous progress, and the dawn of a great, powerful country will come earlier.

This is why our Party attaches such great importance to this short course and hopes that it will constitute a turning point in developing and achieving a fresh leap forward in Juche-oriented architecture.

The previous Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector, which was a first in our country's history of construction, established an important milestone in ushering in a golden age of construction by fully applying our Party's people-first ideal of architecture.

The short course brought about innovative changes in the way officials in the construction sector think and act, and as a result our architectural design and our execution of building work have developed beyond recognition. We have gained the experience and laid the foundations for designing creative and unique structures as we like, free from the conventional and stereotyped patterns of the past. Moreover, our construction workers have grown in strength and raised the level of their technical skills to a much higher level.

Measures have been adopted that have developed the material and technical foundations of the building-materials industry, the arsenal for grand construction, and progress has been made in producing finishing materials domestically.

In short, at a time when construction is entering a golden age, our Juche-oriented architecture and construction sector are recording remarkable development. They have created numerous monumental structures of which we can be proud before the world.

Architectural projects have been carried out for holding the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in high esteem for ever and adding eternal brilliance to the Party's

glorious revolutionary history, traditions and achievements. This is the priceless success born of the ardent loyalty and devoted efforts of the officials and workers in the construction sector who have remained faithful to the inherent principles and mission of the Juche-oriented architecture.

Since the first grand short course, we have completed a large-scale project equivalent to building a modern street every year. We have erected wonderful structures that can serve as new standards and models for Juche-oriented architecture in urban, rural and industrial construction and in the construction of cultural facilities. Projects such as the seat and rural villages in the city of Samjiyon, Ryomyong Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, the Sci-Tech Complex and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort are permeated with the resourcefulness and talents of our designers and builders. They stand as masterpieces of Juche-oriented architecture revealing the new face of civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

In the last year alone, we achieved a breakthrough in hitting the target of housing construction envisaged in the five-year plan by building 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa districts and by successfully promoting the construction of 5 000 flats in the Komdok area. Through the construction of the Pothong riverside terraced houses district in a characteristic way, we created a new form of architecture and accumulated rich experience that can be spread across the country. Other brilliant successes were

recorded at construction sites across the country, such as those of the Pyongyang General Hospital, which will fulfil a promise from the Party to the people, and the Wonsan Kalma coastal tourist area, as well as the projects for establishing a C1 chemical industry and the Tanchon Power Station, and renovating the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County.

A success we recall with a special sense of pride is the sprucing up of Samjiyon, a project of great political and strategic significance for our Party, state and people. Through this project we demonstrated the faith of all our people and their will to defend the revolutionary traditions of the Party and glorify for ever the revolutionary achievements of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. We also created a model of regional construction and dedicated a gift of loyalty for the 80th anniversary of the birth of General Kim Jong Il. Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend heartfelt thanks to all the people, builders and service personnel across the country who, in a demonstration of their unalloyed loyalty to the Party and their leaders, devoted their strength and wisdom to the project and were unsparing in their material and moral assistance.

Our grand socialist construction has proceeded without a moment's interruption, in a manner that is unprecedented in its huge scale and boldness, in a characteristic and modern way, and on a three-dimensional basis, even though our state and people are faced with the

harshest-ever challenges and obstacles and despite the intense struggle for achieving the great cause of building up our national strength and of transforming several other sectors through innovation. This is a powerful demonstration of the firm faith, extraordinary creative spirit and boundless patriotic enthusiasm of our people, who are advancing steadily towards the bright future of socialism without flinching in the face of trials, and of the level of development and potential of our state, which is striving to hit a hugely ambitious goal.

In looking back with due pride on the successes we have achieved recently in catapulting construction and architectural art to a higher level, we are filled with optimism for the future bright development of Juche-oriented architecture. Still, we should conduct a proper review and analysis of our mistakes and deviations. We should learn lessons from them and overcome them, for the sake of the further development of Juche-oriented architecture that conforms to our far-reaching ideals and ambitions.

The construction sector currently reveals shortcomings that require prompt rectification, and there are many aspects of it that must be reinforced. Among the shortcomings evident in the design sector are those of failing to emphasize the uniqueness of every architectural structure and avoid repetition, to guarantee that they reflect the aesthetic tastes and emotions of our people, and to ensure their practicality in accordance with their purpose

and function. We still lag far behind in interior decoration, furniture and landscape design. In the case of construction methods, we remain inclined towards wet processing; there is also a conspicuous difference in ensuring the quality of construction work by construction units and by projects; we are too reliant on imports for finishing materials; and the rate of mechanization in construction work is very low. These are major factors impeding us in making a qualitative leap forward in architecture.

More serious still is the failure of officials in the construction sector to be fully cognizant of our Party's architectural ideals, its construction policy, and the Party Central Committee's intention to prioritize the construction sector in developing our style of socialism. Moreover, they have too limited a vision and insight for us to lead the world in construction.

The construction sector's material and technical foundations are not adequate enough to launch and push ahead with construction work without a hitch, as the Party has planned and intends. This, too, is a pressing issue that must be resolved without fail.

With this grand short course as the momentum, the Party intends to bring about fresh innovations in construction work overall, and thus effect another qualitative leap forward by Juche-oriented architecture so that it achieves the world standard. We have a large group of resourceful and talented designers and experienced construction officials and skilled workers who are capable

of taking charge and leading the way in the era of a new leap forward and the development of construction, as well as the ability to support any construction project, however grand. We should tap all these potentialities and raise the revolution in construction to a new stage. In this way, we can continue to write glorious chapters of Juche-oriented architecture in the history of socialist construction.

Our Party has unfolded a grand blueprint for radically transforming the living environment of all the people across the country within 20 to 30 years and making ours an ideal socialist country, a socialist paradise, which is admired by the world and where the people live in comfort and harmony, enjoying the highest quality and standard of civilization. The construction sector is at the forefront in translating this objective into reality.

Construction is an important part of political work. By making it possible for people to feel the benevolence of our Party's people-first politics and of our system first hand, and by encouraging among them an intuitive understanding of the criteria of creation we are aspiring to and the beautiful future, construction leads them to the civilization of a new era and inspires every one of them to devote themselves to the socialist patriotic cause, filled with pride in being the citizens of a great state and confidence in a better tomorrow. In this sense, the current revolution in construction can be defined as a worthwhile undertaking to create priceless assets for the country and, at the same time, a process of ideological education and cultural revolution

for enlightening people and driving them forward towards a bright future.

Construction is also a prerequisite for comprehensively developing socialism and improving the people's living standards. Moreover, it is a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance for creating a civilized future.

If we are so preoccupied with the prevailing challenges that we fail to focus our efforts on construction, we can neither cement the foundations for the development of the state nor furnish our people with a happy life. Construction is a hallmark of progress and renovation and an investment in the future. Only when we give precedence to construction and push ahead with it audaciously can we create fresh potential for sustained economic growth and expand the foundations for cultural progress, and thereby bring about the substantial changes that will be welcomed by people in every realm of state and social life. Our great people have bravely gone through the period of severe trials and training. By bringing about a revolutionary turn in construction, we should vividly show the world the ideals and ambitions our people cherish in their endeavours to make progress at the stage of a fresh upsurge in, and the renewed development of, the revolution, and demonstrate the dignity of a powerful country more dynamically.

We are creating all our structures on the strength of self-reliance, with an eye to the future and in the face of the current difficulties. They will remain as bases for the

well-being of our people and posterity, as solid assets for national prosperity and as historical monuments which will tell future generations of the level of the ennobling ideological feelings and creative wisdom of the people in the era of the Workers' Party.

All the participants should, by making the most of this grand short course, learn to bear deeply in mind the intention of the Party Central Committee to prioritize construction and lead the overall development of socialist construction by dint of innovative changes in the construction sector. They should master the Party's policy on construction and have a full grasp of the matters to be adhered to in future construction.

They should also clearly recognize the good points in construction to date, should understand what were the bad points, what were their causes and what can be done to rectify them, and should share their successes and experiences with one another. This will help them in advancing confidently towards bold innovation and development.

The basic orientation we must follow in construction at present is to prioritize construction projects for the people's well-being, at the same time as pushing forward with the industrial construction and land development that will consolidate the country's economic foundations.

A society's progress and prosperity are inconceivable apart from the level of its people's cultural life. In providing our people with better housing and an excellent

environment for enjoying cultural activities, we can apply the people-oriented policies of the Party and state and the original features of socialism in a more concrete way and bring about a positive change in the rhythm, habits and mode of the people's life and an improvement in their political consciousness and level of civilization.

The housing problem is a matter of greatest concern for our people and a principal issue in providing them with the tangible benefits of the socialist system. The core of the construction policy advanced by the Eighth Congress of the WPK is to make ours the first country in the world to have solved the housing problem. As the congress decided, 50 000 modern flats should be built in Pyongyang without fail; a mountain gorge city, a cultured mining city, of 25 000 flats with a unique character should be built in the Komdok area; and provinces, cities and counties should vigorously push ahead with their regional housing construction according to annual plans. If all this is done, we will basically solve the shortage of houses across the country during the five-year plan period.

In order to enable our people and the rising generations to study to their heart's content, attain a high level of knowledge and civilization and maintain good health, we should build many modern educational and public health establishments with excellent facilities and conditions so that the Party's plan to build ours into a civilized socialist country will be implemented at an early date. Based on the experiences gained and standards set so far, we should push

ahead strongly with modernizing the educational institutions, medical service facilities and pharmaceutical bases at all levels.

To enable our people to enjoy the reality of socialist civilization to the full, we should build, at the celebrated mountains and scenic spots across the country, cultural and tourist resorts that are in perfect harmony with the beautiful natural scenery. We should also continue to lay out distinctive parks and recreation grounds in all towns and villages, and set up modern, high-standard service facilities.

Our Party has put it forward as an important strategic line of socialist construction to fundamentally eliminate the differences between the capital city and provinces and between towns and rural communities.

With a view to stepping up regional construction, especially rural construction, in real earnest, our Party and the government of the Republic formulated a policy and adopted a law for the state to supply cement to every city and county every year on a regular basis. The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK put forward the strategic task of building up all the rural villages in the country in such a way that they maintain the flavour of our style of socialism and clearly sustain their regional characteristics.

Sprucing up cities, county towns and rural villages is a worthwhile undertaking which is welcomed by our people and gives impetus to the construction of a civilized society. The state should increase its investment, true to the Party's

policy of regional and rural construction, and every province, city and county should raise the torch of a revolution in construction so that every provincial seat, city, county town and rural village is transformed into an ideal socialist one.

We should focus our efforts on industrial construction and land development so that fresh foundations for economic development are steadily laid.

The objective we must attain in industrial construction is to create fresh foundations for the development of the national economy, and to provide the working people with better and advanced working conditions by establishing and upgrading not only production lines but also all the industrial, cultural and welfare facilities. Buildings should substantially conform to the requirements of the new era in terms of not only their appearance, but also their operation and profitability.

For the present, efforts should be concentrated, with a view to bringing forward their completion, on the projects for establishing a C1 chemical industry, renovating the Kumsong Tractor Factory, building an energy-saving iron furnace and other major industrial construction projects of national significance. With the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm as a model, similar modern large-scale farms should be built, and the renovation of the cereal administration agencies in cities and counties, and of regional-industry factories, should be stepped up.

While directing efforts to building key infrastructure

such as railways, ports and power plants, which constitute the foundation of the country's development, we should be working persistently on such land administration projects as sea walls and hydraulic structures, river improvement and road construction. In this way, we can transform the country's appearance, and defend from natural disasters the people's lives and property and the material and cultural wealth they have created through such great exertion.

So, the construction tasks we are facing are enormous and challenging. But if we press ahead with them responsibly without interruption, with the mindset that doing so is an essential process in opening up a broad and smooth road for the state's development and securing a guarantee for improving the people's living standards, not only we, but also the coming generations, will enjoy the tangible benefits and, in the near future, our country will be transformed into a beautiful and ideal socialist country that is good to live in.

The first basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to establish thoroughly within it the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee.

As I have just said, construction work, before being a task for creating material wealth, is an important undertaking to apply our Party's people-first politics, improve the level of the people's spiritual and cultural attainments and transform the country's look. Only when the unified leadership system of the Party Central

Committee is thoroughly established in it can construction work be carried out in line with the policy-oriented intentions and plans of the Party, which is guiding the comprehensive development of our style of socialism, and can all the structures created in our era properly embody the Juche-oriented idea and ideals on architecture.

At every stage of construction, from planning to completion, we should concentrate all our thoughts and actions on implementing the Party Central Committee's plans and intentions. At the same time, we should make sure that the Party's policy on construction is the one and only guideline and absolute standard in organizing and carrying out construction projects. A strict rule should be enforced whereby all construction-related matters are reported promptly to the Party and handled in accordance with the Party's conclusion. Only the design ratified by the Party should be adopted in any building, even when something more is wanted or could be done. Undertaking a project without receiving the Party's approval is an abnormal practice which should never be connived at.

The second basic requirement that we should always meet in construction work is to regard architecture as a political matter, an aspect of policy.

Our architecture, if it is separated from its political character, has no value. We reject the tendency to regard construction as merely a practical undertaking, as the pursuit of beauty alone and as art for art's sake. Making architecture political and policy-oriented is the core and the

seed from which Juche-oriented architecture develops. It should be our consistent policy to ensure that structures bear visual representation of the principle of regarding our Party, our ideology, our system and our nation as the best. This can be done by, for instance, displaying political slogans or catchphrases on them. All the structures we build should be lively ones that fully embody the Juche- and people-oriented character unique to our Party and state, our national traits, the people's aspirations and emotions, and the dignity and mettle of our great powerful nation.

The third basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to create and develop new, original styles of architecture that are representative and symbolic of the era of the Workers' Party.

Architectural style is a visual representation of the aspirations, aesthetic views, level of civilization and national strength in a particular period of time. We should create and introduce into overall construction architectural styles that are symbolic of the civilization in the era of the Workers' Party, typical styles of our own that encapsulate the features of the architectural art to which we aspire. In this regard it is important to ensure that every element of architecture embodies our national style, the spirit of the times and the mettle of innovation and creation. In other words, we should sustain our inherent style and features while meeting the requirements of modern architectural art in our own way.

The fourth basic requirement that we should meet

consistently in construction work is to ensure a high level of economic efficiency and practicality.

Construction requires a huge amount of human and material resources and, once it has been completed, it cannot be reversed—this is its unique feature. Depending on its purpose and standard, a construction project may powerfully lead social progress, or hinder it. Therefore, it should be carried out, based on a scientific calculation in close combination with the long-term national development plan. Moreover, throughout the whole course of the project, from drawing up the master plan to the design and building work, we should strive to achieve economic efficiency and practicality by adopting the optimum options. We should maintain the principle of profitability, actively encourage resource-, area- and energy-saving models in accordance with the global trend and the actual conditions in our country, and perfect every aspect of every structure so that it serves as a base for the growth of our economic potential and the development of our country's civilization and prosperity even after fifty years, nay one hundred years, to say nothing of today.

Keeping to this basic orientation and requirements in construction, we should turn out with a fresh resolve in an all-out effort to bring about a revolutionary upsurge in the era of grand construction.

If construction is to make the dramatic advance desired by the Party, progress and change should be achieved first in design work.

An excellent structure which embodies the Party's Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetic beauty and encapsulates the people's ideals comes from the design desk, and it is at this desk, too, that we take the first big strides towards a civilized socialist country.

Our Party demands that every single line and dot drawn on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of the era of the Workers' Party and embody the standards of a civilization that can proudly take the lead globally. As for the architects who are charged with this task, what they need is the enduring perseverance with which to rack their brains and get an ingenious idea or inspiration that is consistent with the Party's idea and ideals and the people's aspirations, and with which they admit or yield to nothing that is not new.

Designers should think, study and strive every minute of their life, well aware that every design they produce will translate our Party's line and policy into reality and open up a bright future for their country.

The central task in architectural design is to maintain the Juche character and our national identity, sustain originality and convenience, and promote practicality and functionality.

As the Party has often stressed, the Juche character and our national identity are the lifeblood of architecture, while originality and convenience, practicality and functionality are the guidelines in drawing up architectural designs. The design sector, while maintaining the principle of giving

priority to convenience, aesthetic beauty and infrastructure construction, should, as required by our Party's construction policy, design all structures in such a way that they accord with the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of our people and with our actual conditions, are diverse and distinctive, and are fit for purpose. This will help to open up a new phase in architectural creation.

Its elevation is the face of a structure, where its attractiveness is primarily expressed.

It is important to avoid similarity and repetition and to sustain the individuality of all structures in designing the elevation. In other words, it is necessary to sustain the characteristics of the structural skeleton of a building while ensuring its formative and artistic beauty so that it is possible to tell at a glance from its outward appearance what it is for. In the elevation formation we should pay attention to finding an original seed that can intently reflect the mission, purpose and characteristic features of the structure and to thoroughly subordinating every part and detail to the seed. In particular, even structures with the same mission and purpose must be designed in harmony with their surroundings, without being repetitive and monotonous while preserving the characteristics of the area—whether mountains, coast or plain.

A structure's appearance should be attractive, and its interior, as well as being practical and convenient, should also be flawless in terms of its aesthetics.

A fundamental principle in interior design is to achieve

the perfect combination of practicality, convenience, and artistic and formative beauty. Even though practicality and convenience are being emphasized, formative and artistic beauty should not be neglected, nor should practicality and convenience be overlooked because formative and artistic beauty are being stressed.

Attention should be paid to creating a rational floor plan based on the principles of fully meeting the functional requirements of the building according to its mission and purpose, maximizing the utility rate of the building area, and ensuring its convenience. At the same time, we should actively create and make use of new and diverse architectural formation methods of our own style.

The interior decoration is particularly important in architecture. It can be likened to an art. In interior decoration, the principle should be observed of sustaining modernity and our taste. We should improve the effect of interior decoration by employing such various decorative elements as folding screens and paintings and such methods of decoration as openwork, as well as by arranging the various items of furniture and fixtures in good harmony according to their purposes.

The design sector should pay special attention to encouraging national forms of architecture on a wide scale and designing the exterior and interior of structures so that they suit our national characteristics.

The formation plan for a structure acquires its detailed features through technical design, and it is the technical

design that guarantees that the quality, safety and technical engineering standards are met.

Scientific character, accuracy, rationality and delicacy should all be assured in the technical design. The design sector, in strict accordance with the formation plans ratified by the Party and the technical requirements, should present optimum technical design options which can guarantee the quality and safety of structures with less materials and manpower and fully satisfy the functional occupancy demands and the technical engineering demands while sustaining modern aesthetic tastes and decorative effects.

A considerable effort should be directed to drawing up a draft construction design budget. Those engaged in drafting the budget should eliminate such practices as creating a reserve or incurring waste as a result of an improper calculation of manpower, materials and funds. They should ensure that every single person-day, every gram of cement and every piece of steel is used efficiently.

A fundamental change should be brought about in furniture and landscape design.

At present, since the level of furniture design is not so high, items of furniture that are poorly-shaped, unattractive and inconvenient to use are being manufactured. Even though they may be made from good materials, they undermine the quality of the building's interior.

Furniture designers should hold fast to the principle of designing furniture that is fit for purpose, blends well with the structure's character and its interior space, and caters to

the tastes of the users. While attaching importance to making furniture that is varied, formative, multi-functional and light, they should switch from pre-assembled to flat-pack models and design all items of furniture to suit their purpose. They should encourage the production of light and good-looking furniture made not only of wood but also of various other materials, and choose colours that are congenial to that of the structure's interior space.

In modern architecture, landscaping plays an important role as a means of formation, and its standard is a yardstick for evaluating the level of a country's civilization.

As landscaping is another form of formative art, the design should be given priority, and the work should be carried out according to the design.

Landscaping designs should be drawn up in a characteristically formative and artistic manner and in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the building and sustain the natural scenery, taking into account the surrounding environment, the features of the terrain and the ecological characteristics of the garden plants. Landscape designers should guard against stereotypes in their work, and draw up varied designs, for example by planting trees of high ornamental value in groups, laying out lawns and flower beds in harmony and enhancing the natural beauty through a combination of such elements as artificial hills and rocks.

We should work effectively to widen the vision of landscape designers, should step up the research on landscaping and should adopt methods that are widely used

internationally, as suited to the situation in our country.

The design sector should draw up proper master plans.

Master plans should be drawn up on a long-term basis with an eye to more than 50, nay 100, years ahead, and with their ideals properly defined in line with the Party's intention. They should be based on a scientific calculation of the specific conditions and environment of the region and project and the direction of their development, while making sure their seeds and themes are sustained.

It is important in drawing up a master plan to define the central axis properly according to the area and project, to divide the districts clearly according to their functions, and to form architectural groups in such a way that they retain their unique features. In undulating areas it should be a principle to distribute buildings by making the most of the natural curves and slopes, while in flat areas it would be a good idea to divide them into square districts and settle the location of imposing buildings. Artistic interaction, compatibility and connection between buildings should be ensured in a smooth and refined way, while retaining the unique style of the individual buildings that constitute the architectural formation. In drawing up a master plan, the infrastructure networks, including the water supply, sewage treatment, electricity supply and telecommunications, should be carefully laid out so as to provide the people with the conditions and an environment in which they do not experience the slightest inconvenience.

In keeping with the global development trend, we

should study and introduce alternative architectural design options, including green and smart architecture, so that we are competing with the world in terms of the level of our advanced architectural technology. Along with this, we should make a big effort to raise to the world standard the comprehensive level of our design in the construction of ports, railways, roads, bridges and everything else.

The design sector should eliminate subjectivism and formalism and ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in the guidance and deliberation of designs. It should fully realize cooperation and unity among design institutes by branches and systems so as to secure, from the stage of making an operations plan, a guarantee of victory in construction.

The quality of a structure is immediately the quality of the building work.

In ensuring the quality of building work, the primary task is to raise the level of what the builders do. Construction units should promote the efforts to ensure that builders possess the expertise and qualifications for completing any building task flawlessly. In particular, efforts should be made to strengthen the ranks of skilled workers who are good at finishing work. The overall level of technical skills should be raised by effectively organizing technical studies, skills transfer and competition among skilled workers and by forming construction workforce in a rational way so that novices learn and master the building methods while working

alongside highly skilled workers.

The construction sector should establish a proper quality control system, introduce advanced methods to this end, and never allow any concession or compromise concerning the quality of building work.

Construction units should strengthen the leadership bodies of building work that guide building work and provide proper guidance so that it can be done in accordance with the requirements of architectural engineering and aesthetics. They should also keep their workers fully informed of the standards of design and building work and the engineering requirements and make exacting demands on them so that these standards and requirements are fully met. They should conduct an incisive review of work with the focus on the quality. Builders guilty of bad habits and empiricism, who have violated the engineering requirements, should be called to serious account and made to put matters to rights.

The construction sector should overcome the deviation of attaching overriding importance to speed through crash campaigns on the pretext of completing a project by a fixed date, and give precedence to ensuring the quality of a building on the principle of prioritizing quality over quantity.

The quality and speed of building work can be improved by advanced engineering methods. The construction sector should launch a fresh innovation movement to introduce advanced building methods. It should step up the research into and the invention of

material- and labour-saving building methods, including the introduction of dry processing, and should perfect the method of coloured mortar plastering. Construction units should constantly investigate and apply advantageous and new building methods.

If we are to push ahead with construction without interruption at the level intended by the Party and according to our resolve, we need larger quantities of building materials.

In this new era, when the flames of the construction revolution are flaring up, something that is needed everywhere is cement. We should attain the goal for cement production set by the Eighth Party Congress by operating the existing cement factories at full capacity, pushing ahead with the expansion of their production capacity, and building modern cement factories in places that are suitable for cement production.

From this year on, the full amount of cement to be supplied to cities and counties should be produced, and supplied to them without fail.

In particular, the building-materials industry should achieve substantial results in carrying out the Party's policy of attaining self-sufficiency in finishing materials and producing a greater diversity of building materials in terms of type, shape and colour. We can proudly say that only the structures erected by our builders from our own designs and completed with the finishing materials of our own style stand as symbols of Juche-oriented architecture.

The building-materials industry should push ahead forcefully with developing from our own resources the finishing materials that are needed for construction, and installing production lines for them. It should set proper standards and targets for the domestic production of finishing materials including not only tiles, stone materials, glass and metal and plastic materials, but also heat insulators, coating materials, waterproofing materials, wallpaper, vinyl flooring and wall panelling, and attain the standards and targets in a planned way.

It should strive to lower the production costs of finishing materials while improving their quality and increasing production. It should modernize production lines, proactively introduce advanced technologies for producing building materials, and standardize the building materials in terms of type, material, size, form and colour.

It should step up the research into green building materials, and study how to use various waste materials effectively in their production.

We should work effectively to protect and develop our building-materials industry. While increasing investment in the sector, the state should encourage, from the stage of the architectural design, the use of our own building materials, and adopt measures for restricting import of those finishing materials the demand for which can be satisfied by domestic production.

The Party's policy of making construction professional and focused should be carried out consistently.

The key to making construction professional is to train specialized workforce capable of fulfilling any building tasks. It is a matter of course that construction should be undertaken on a mass basis, but the principle to be adhered to here is for specialized workers to undertake it.

The state should ensure that the specialized construction enterprises play their role to the full. It should take steps to readjust and reinforce those enterprises that are not playing their proper role, strengthen their workforce, and furnish them with modern construction equipment.

Construction enterprises should not simply depend on supplies from the state, but train their own technical forces, expand the ranks of their skilled workers, and obtain construction equipment and tools for themselves.

Construction should be conducted in a focused manner in strict accordance with the blueprint.

To this end, the initial planning should be done properly.

Not only the state but also provinces, cities and counties should make it an iron rule to regard the Party's policy on construction as their guideline, conduct a detailed assessment of their actual conditions, potential and possibilities, and, on this basis, set their annual targets to the minutest detail and meet them without fail. Construction should be carried out in a planned way with a proper orientation and a proper order of priority, in close combination with the long-term objectives for the development of the national and regional economy and the

improvement of the people's standard of living.

Once a plan has been completed, designers and construction workers, materials and funds should be supplied in a concentrated manner and in reasonable order, and the organization and command of the construction work should be arranged vigorously so as to finish the project on time. Such practices as pretending that they are doing something by conducting construction projects here and there out of a subjective desire and without any detailed calculation, or such as wasting labour, materials and funds by delaying construction, should be eliminated.

Substantial improvement needs to be brought about in making construction scientific and modern.

There should be a change first in the attitude of officials and builders towards, and their stand on, making construction scientific. As construction has a direct impact on the life and safety of the people and social and economic development, officials and builders should always be aware that the whole process of construction, from the foundation work to erecting the framework and the finishing, must be run through with scientific accuracy. They should rid themselves of the deviation of working haphazardly by relying on their experience while neglecting the scientific and technical requirements, and support every stage of a project, from the design to the building work, with science and technology. In particular, every one of them should adopt the stand of a master in introducing the achievements of the latest science and technology.

Scientists and technicians in the construction sector should, by setting high objectives, launch a drive to conceive and develop new, advanced design and building methods, as well as building materials, equipment and tools, from a Juche-oriented standpoint.

They should organize seminars and symposiums at which, through broad discussions and debates on practical issues, new concepts and the experiences gained, they can find workable solutions, and learn and spread the positive achievements.

The educational institutions in the construction sector, including Pyongyang University of Architecture, should improve the level of their teaching in conformity with our Party's idea of Juche-oriented architecture and with the demands of the developing modern architecture, and should produce a larger body of talented individuals who can shoulder the future of our architecture. Graduates of universities and colleges in the construction sector should be appointed to fields that are related to their major, such as design institutes and construction enterprises, so that they can play the key role in putting construction on a scientific basis. Construction units, for their part, should discover talented individuals and make strenuous efforts to train them into standard-bearers in the development of their respective units. Officials and builders should steadily raise the level of their knowledge by making active use of the system and means of disseminating science and technology.

The greatest weakness in our construction sector at

present is that it is not modern. It is usual practice to mobilize a large workforce ahead of a state construction project. This means there are regular manpower problems, the work of other sectors is affected, the speed and quality of construction cannot be ensured, and large quantities of materials are wasted. Conducting manual work at crowded construction sites still today, in the era of the knowledge-based economy, is inappropriate to our architecture's level of development.

We should regard modernizing construction as a crucial task that is of the utmost urgency, and promote it with serious intent.

By modernizing the means of design and establishing a system of disseminating various advanced design methods and CAD software programmes on a regular basis, we can create the conditions for drawing up designs at any level at the earliest possible date and with a high quality standard.

We should radically increase the rate of mechanization in construction work. We should lay state-level foundations for producing modern construction equipment and tools and develop and produce machinery that can be used in various kinds of construction work including not only housing construction but also industrial construction and land development. Construction units should be encouraged to manufacture simple equipment and tools for themselves and to organize regular events, such as exhibitions of tools and invented devices, so as to make the best ones widely known.

The supervision and control of construction need to be strengthened.

If supervision and control are weak, the Party's idea on Juche-oriented architecture and its construction policy cannot be implemented accurately, the interests of the country and people will be infringed, and the safety of structures cannot be guaranteed.

Construction supervision organs should be rigorous in their supervision and control throughout the whole course of construction, in line with the Party's principles and in full compliance with the requirements of Party policy and the country's construction law. They should adopt the attitude of assuming full responsibility for the quality of structures before the Party, state and people, and work according solely to the country's supervision rules and without bending to the will of others.

They should permit only those units that have obtained state approval as required by the regulations to carry out construction work, whatever is being built, and should exercise strict supervision and control over every process—whether the requirements of engineering have been correctly observed in the design and whether the design's architectural and aesthetic requirements have been satisfied in the building work. They should raise the standard for inspecting all completed structures and establish strict rules and regulations whereby structures are used only after they have passed inspection. They should promptly take issue with and combat any practice of

violating the construction law, irrespective of the affiliation of the violator or their reason for doing so, thus allowing no room on any account for illegal actions to take root.

On this occasion I intend once again to emphasize regional construction, and rural construction in particular.

The revolution in regional construction and rural construction, which our Party is determined to carry out without fail, is a massive undertaking without precedent in the history of socialist construction in our country.

This undertaking is a sweeping drive, the purpose of which is to wash away the long-lingering historical dirt from the rural areas and develop them into modern locales where socialist civilization can flourish. It is not a campaign that can be completed in just a year or two, but a highly responsible undertaking that should be resolutely executed with a medium- and long-range vision aimed at creating a new era of transformation of the regional areas and realizing the centuries-old desire of our agricultural workers.

Building up regional forces for architectural design and building work is the most pressing issue in realizing our Party's plan for regional construction. As all the provinces, cities and counties across the country are expected to conduct regional construction simultaneously, true to the measures adopted by the Party, none of them will ever carry out the Party's policy of regional construction if they merely anticipate receiving help from the central design and construction units.

They should strengthen the body of designers who can play the vanguard role in their regional construction, and steadily improve their qualifications.

One of the main purposes of the current short course is to develop architectural design for the capital city and regional areas alike by strengthening the regional design bodies.

Our Party requires regional construction to sustain the characteristics of the specific area. The country's regions differ from one another not only in their natural and geographical conditions and their climate for economic development, but also in the lifestyle habits that have been handed down throughout history. Therefore, if the characteristics inherent to regions are to be sustained, the designers should be fully aware of their respective regions' characteristics, ranging from the natural and geographical features to the unique economic conditions and people's manners and customs, and should be capable of embracing them in the architectural design.

It is necessary to reinforce the regional design institutes with talented people who have architectural insight, and to enhance their qualifications and role. Regional designers should accumulate experience through practical construction work and learn from the designers from the capital city whom they work with. Regions, while making exacting demands on designers to steadily improve their qualifications, should provide them with the conditions for accessing the latest architectural materials from abroad. They should enrol promising individuals, including those

with an aptitude for fine art, in universities and colleges in the construction sector so as to train them as the reserve for their design bodies.

Regions should strengthen their local building workforce so that they can build any structure for themselves at a high level of quality. As I have emphasized before, cities and counties should wind up the work of forming construction brigades and should improve their technical skills and qualifications. Provinces, cities and counties should form competent construction units by enlisting people who have been trained and become highly qualified in specialized army or shock brigade construction units, making them the core, and should expand the ranks of skilled workers in such a way that they transfer their skills to others.

Provincial, city and county Party committees should play a major role in building up their local construction workforce. Despite the prevailing hardships, the Party has set aside a considerable quantity of cement for rural construction. Therefore, provinces, cities and counties should, first of all, have their own powerful construction workforce if they are to push ahead with regional construction on a long-term and qualitative basis with an eye to 100 years in the future. They should be well aware that the work of consolidating their regional construction workforce, the body of designers in particular, is not only a major guarantee for developing their regions in a characteristic way but also an undertaking for creating

resources and wealth locally.

Regions should take the path of building up reliable bases for producing finishing materials and developing quality ones by using the resources that are available locally, thus enabling their buildings to preserve their unique characteristics.

They should organize annual provincial building-materials exhibitions and conduct proper reviews and appraisals so that these exhibitions can boost the domestic production of finishing materials and contribute to the development of the country's building-materials industry.

True to the Party's intention, they should draw up realistic plans for regional and rural construction, with the top priority given to building houses in rural communities, and should establish rigid discipline whereby they are carried out without fail.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should radically improve their sense of responsibility and role.

They should adopt a serious approach to the important missions and responsibilities entrusted to them by the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, and fully discharge their duties and role as befits the main force in the current revolution in construction.

They should be well-versed in the Party's policy on construction and strive steadily to master the latest science and technology of construction and all-around construction skills. By doing so, they can prepare themselves fully for

the Party to entrust them with any task at any time, with no worries.

They should all remember that their patriotism will find expression in the quality of the structures they build, and devote their pure conscience, sincere heart and skills even when laying a single brick. They should make it a habit to take loving care of their equipment and tools, achieve maximum economies in their use of building materials, and carry out all their work assiduously and scrupulously.

In the new revolution in construction, the might of the army and people operating together should be dynamically demonstrated once again.

Our People's Army service personnel have done a lot for the gigantic struggle to usher in a golden age of construction as the facilitator of the people's happiness, even in the super-intense situation in which they have shouldered the heavy responsibility of defending the country. The monumental creations in which we can take such great pride before the world as models of Juche-oriented architecture, and the grand construction sites, are all permeated with the patriotic devotion, creative wisdom and talents of our soldiers who always follow the orders and instructions of the Party faithfully. Our Party will never forget their heroic feats for and ennobling devotion to the country's prosperity and the people's happiness, and our people will, for many generations to come, pride themselves on the genuine character of our soldiers who glorified the great era of the Workers' Party.

Our soldier-builders, just as they have done until now, should fully demonstrate the might of our army by becoming standard-bearers in the new revolution in construction and carrying out to perfection every task entrusted to them by the Party, by the date set and at the desired level.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should learn from the soldiers' spirit of regarding Party policy as absolute and implementing it unconditionally, as well as from their immaculate and scrupulous work style befitting the teachers of construction skills, and their vigorous and optimistic fighting spirit. By doing so, they can work new miracles and feats at every construction site and build every structure at the highest level possible as symbols of the civilization of our style of socialism.

Party organizations should fully discharge their duties and responsibilities in the struggle for waging a new revolution in construction.

They should direct a major effort to educating the officials and workers in the construction sector so that their minds are deeply implanted with the greatness and leadership exploits of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who built a socialist paradise on the debris after the war and ushered in a new history of Juche-oriented architecture, and of our Party which heralded a golden age of construction in the era of the Workers' Party; in this way, the officials and workers can be encouraged to cultivate ardent loyalty to the Party and the leaders and make strenuous

efforts to wage a new revolution in construction with pride in their missions and jobs.

They should step up ideological education among the officials and workers so that they are fully armed with our Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy, and apply them thoroughly, and ultimately, so that they support the Party's plans with practical achievements in construction.

They should, by deploying powerful information and motivation forces at construction sites and conducting vigorous information work through visual aids and motivational work for increased labour efficiency, further enhance the spiritual strength of the masses and raise the hot wind of the socialist emulation drive in which every construction site seethes with enthusiasm for creating new miracles.

They should pay primary attention to the lives and safety of the builders, whom our Party values most, and exercise strict Party control, and take practical responsibility, so that no construction work is permitted unless labour safety is guaranteed 100 per cent.

They should provide the builders, whose job involves heavy physical labour, with excellent supplies and services and ample conditions for rest, and should take warm care of their families so that those who are seconded to construction sites have no need to worry about them.

The mission of the officials in the construction sector is very important and heavy, in that it involves providing the

people with the happiest life and bringing about a fresh transformation of the appearance of Juche-oriented architecture by fully applying our Party's people-first architectural idea.

I firmly believe that all the officials and workers in the construction sector will continue to perform proud feats in every theatre of a new revolution in construction, for the sake of the prosperity and development of our great state and the wellbeing of our people, true to the Party's far-reaching plan for grand construction, and thus dynamically lead the way in the development of our own style of socialist civilization.

Let Us Add Further Glory to the Golden Age of Capital City Construction by Transforming the Hwasong Area

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for a Project
to Build 10 000 Flats in the Hwasong Area

February 12, 2022

Comrades,

Today, filled with fresh vigour and self-confidence, we are holding an important groundbreaking ceremony for a new street for the people in our capital city, a street symbolic of the era of further transformation.

First of all, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government, I would like to extend warm congratulations and greetings to the builders of the capital city and the service personnel who, at this grand groundbreaking ceremony for a project to build 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area true to the decisions adopted at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, are marking the start of our grandiose endeavour in 2022.

This project is one of the major tasks facing the construction sector this year. It is the second such project for attaining the long-term goal of housing construction in

Pyongyang which our Party had been desirous of achieving for a considerable time before launching it last year. It is also the first stage in building a new, modern urban district in this area.

The long-term plan for developing the capital city approved by our Party and the government envisages the creation in this area near the sacred place of the sun and adjoining September 9 Street of splendid streets and a new administrative district with tens of thousands of flats, as well as public buildings and welfare service facilities. It will be completed within three years or so.

If the goal of building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, which includes this gigantic project, is attained with success, our Party will have fulfilled the most important promise it made to the people, and the housing problem for the capital's residents will have been fully solved.

This is why the Party and the government are pushing ahead so forcefully with the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang every year, even though the conditions and circumstances at present are more challenging than ever before.

Comrades,

That we have been able to launch this important and gigantic project in the Hwasong area as planned in the second year of implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress is entirely thanks to the efforts of the builders and service personnel who have committed themselves to Pyongyang's development.

Last year the project to build 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area was carried out, despite the tough conditions where the country's economic situation was harsh and difficulties were piling up.

Our builders pressed ahead bravely with the construction as planned, overcoming all the trials with an indomitable will and through a strenuous effort. In less than a year they built at Pyongyang's eastern gateway a splendid street lined with high-rise and super-high-rise apartment blocks.

As a result, we can now visualize, in the run-up to the Day of the Sun, numerous delighted residents of the capital moving into new homes on the new street.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee expressed its great appreciation for this achievement.

Because this effort had resulted in such a major success, the Party Central Committee could confidently decide on and organize the construction of 10 000 flats at the next stage. So, today we are holding the groundbreaking ceremony to proclaim the official start of housing construction in the Hwasong area.

Our Party has never doubted that the tremendous enthusiasm for labour and the aggressive spirit of progress witnessed last year will be displayed in this year's project, or that more inspiring and more significant successes will be achieved.

Our builders are proud artists and dignified trail-blazers

possessed of miraculous powers. As such, they are writing a new chapter of prosperity and development in the era of the Workers' Party.

The Party's people-oriented policies are becoming the reality wherever the workers of the country's major construction units and the service personnel of the People's Army are dispatched. As a result, homes where countless people will live for generations to come are appearing and monumental creations symbolic of the civilization of the era are springing up year after year.

A fierce struggle for grand construction is under way, and in the course of it vacillation and lack of ability are being overcome, courage and wisdom displayed, backwardness and stagnation eliminated, progress and innovations achieved, and the power of our state and people to shape the future increased.

In short, the vigour of our advance and development is being demonstrated in practice, and every obstacle, in other words the challenges both objective and subjective, is being removed and smashed to pieces. This represents a crushing blow to the forces that are hostile to us.

Herein lies the transformation, the revolution and the victory we aspire to.

And the masters occupying the vanguard of this revolution are you, the builders.

Our builders are the pioneers and dependable vanguard fighters of our era, who conceive of tomorrow while living today and are bringing forward the dawn of a

beautiful future.

I am convinced that, thanks to our Party's sound policy on construction and to the builders' creative labour, our construction sector will change and develop to become more advanced and progressive while sustaining its socialist character, which is the original feature of our people-first architecture, of consistently serving the aim of promoting the people's wellbeing.

In building apartments in the Hwasong area this year as part of the grand construction project, we should push ahead with it in a more dynamic and detail-oriented way by making the most of the experience and lessons we learned from the construction of 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area.

The grand construction project is a gigantic creative effort to bring new entities into existence by concentrating the country's human, material and technical resources on it. Therefore, whether it is a total success or not depends on how it is planned and commanded.

The project headquarters should conduct a detailed assessment of the existing construction workforce, the building materials production capacity and the transport capabilities, as well as seasonal factors. Based on this, it should draw up a well-thought-out plan for each process of the design and building work, and push ahead with it forcefully.

In construction we should try to give definite precedence to building materials supply. We should also

aim to ensure both the quality and speed of construction by enhancing the role of the building units and supervisory bodies.

In this, it is important to eradicate the short-sighted view of stressing only the immediate building tasks in planning and commanding construction projects. To this end, we should steadily execute scientific proposals and plans aimed at developing the construction sector on a long-term basis.

The grand construction project, including the development of Pyongyang, is a matter of national importance and hardly something that can be completed in a year or two. It is a long-term undertaking to be continued at an increasingly higher level even when all our people are living in good houses and even after the whole country has undergone a facelift.

Therefore, there should be no delay or slowdown in anything related to the construction sector, whether in consolidating its material and technical foundations in terms of both quality and quantity, in producing various kinds of building materials domestically, in raising the proportion of work done by machines, or in widely introducing advanced building methods and architectural technology.

All these issues should, throughout the whole course of construction and at every stage of the building work, be addressed, carried out and reviewed in the planning and design, the materials supply and in the observance of the quality requirements. And new initiatives, reasonable technical proposals and audacious endeavours should be

actively encouraged and put forward.

In this way, if a new street of 10 000 flats is built every year, not only will the appearance of the capital city and, beyond that, the whole country be transformed, but also our construction workforce will grow in strength and a fresh advance will be recorded in our approach to construction.

Ultimately, by promoting the successful construction of houses and the modernization of our construction sector, we will be ready to carry out more gigantic and ambitious construction projects in the future.

Our Party regards the great enthusiasm, sense of responsibility and sincere efforts of every official and builder for construction as the key and decisive factor that is vital to its success.

This is why our socialist construction sites are brought to life by inspiring slogans, fluttering red flags, and resounding marches.

Novel and inspirational political work encourages everyone to cherish ennobling ideals and beautiful hopes, to take a sense of honour and pride from their enthusiasm and endeavours becoming a source of great strength for their collective, and to learn from the positive examples and merits of others. This work is a source of dynamism unique to socialism, which trains ordinary working people into innovators and performers of feats and which works miracles, whatever the circumstances.

You should conduct vigorous frontline political work so that all the builders feel a sense of mission and pleasure in

creating with their own hands the ever-growing happiness and development of our times, and so that they take great pride in bringing forward the dawn of a more cultured future through their efforts.

You should stir up a hot wind of collective emulation for overtaking and learning from one another and give fuller play to your patriotic enthusiasm. By doing so, you can build, here in the Hwasong area and before the eyes of the world, a flourishing socialist living space which is permeated with a great generation's indomitable perseverance and untiring spirit of creation, and which is filled with people's happy laughter.

Comrades,

Today our grand construction front covers not only this construction site of 10 000 flats in the capital city, but also the whole country.

Numerous construction projects designed for the sake of our great state's prosperity and development and for the people's well-being are being planned or are under way at major metallurgical and chemical industry bases, at the construction sites of new power plants, at tideland reclamation sites, in the Komdok and Ryonpho areas, and in rural communities across the country.

All these construction projects constitute a powerful engine for the comprehensive development of socialist construction. Among them, the housing construction project in the Hwasong area is the main theatre, and it should take the lead.

In implementing the Party's policy on construction in a perfect and thoroughgoing way and conducting intense and energetic campaigns in high spirits, the construction units deployed in the Hwasong area should naturally become standard-bearers and models for all the other theatres of construction.

I firmly believe that all the builders and service personnel present here will feel an extraordinary sense of glory and pride in building a new street for the people, and will, through their redoubled wisdom, enthusiasm and fortitude, complete with credit and on schedule the construction project in the Hwasong area.

For the great new era of the development of our own style of socialism,

For our Pyongyang, and

For bringing earlier the happy day when our parents, brothers, sisters and children will move into new flats in the dramatically-transformed Hwasong area,

Let us all wage a dynamic struggle!

KIM JONG UN
ON USHERING IN
A GREAT GOLDEN AGE
OF CONSTRUCTION

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